

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01223 310604Z

12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 /104 W

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R 310548Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9162

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 1223

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BGEN, BE, KU

SUBJ: BELGIAN TRADE MISSION VISIT TO KUWAIT

1. BELGIAN TRADE MISSION HEADED BY PRINCE ALBERT HELD HIGHLY PUBLICIZED VISIT TO KUWAIT MARCH 23-29. WHILE HERE, GROUP OF 60 BELGIANS MET WITH TOP KUWAITI OFFICIALS INCLUDING ACTING AMIR AND WIDE VARIETY OF BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS.

2. VISIT CULMINATED WITH SIGNING OF AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACCORD, BUT SOURCES IN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND GOK HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT AGREEMENT IS LITTLE MORE THAN A FORMALITY WITH LITTLE SUBSTANCE TO IT. APART FROM THIS AGREEMENT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SPECIFIC CONTRACTS OR OTHER AGREEMENTS THAT WERE CONCLUDED WHILE THE BELGIANS WERE IN KUWAIT.

3. COMMENT: BELGIAN VISIT TO KUWAIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY A PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE. LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND OFFICIALS COMPLAINED OF UNWIELDY SIZE OF THE GROUP WHICH FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES RULED OUT ANY HOPE FOR SERIOUS, SUBSTANTATIVE DISCUSSIONS. FOR THEIR PART, THE BELGIANS STRESSED KUWAIT/BELGIUM FRIENDSHIP AND THE GOB'S SUPPORT FOR

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01223 310604Z

"FULL IMPLEMENTATION" OF RESOLUTION 242. THE IMPORTANCE

ATTACHED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-ACQUISITION OF TERRITORY
BY FORCE WAS ALSO STRESSED. IN ADDITION, BELGIANS STATED THEIR
RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR A JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT IN
THE MIDDLE EAST TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE.
STOLTZFUS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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